

FRIDAY NIGHT FACTS

OFFICE OF FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



MITCHELL E. DANIELS, JR., GOVERNOR
PAULA PARKER-SAWYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friday Night Facts Readers,



It's amazing to me that just three short weeks ago we were preparing to host the Governor's Conference on Service and Volunteerism. We were pleased with the results of the conference and the many comments we received from participants. This edition of Friday Night Facts is devoted to reporting on the various sessions and activities of the conference. If you did not attend, we hope that by reading this newsletter, you will watch for and plan to attend the 2008 Governor's Conference on Service and Volunteerism.

Over 600 people attended the conference and participated in 60 distinct breakout sessions. Nearly 100 presenters (some sessions had multiple presenters) provided information and examples of how to address an issue relevant to community and/or faith-based organizations. Like any other conference we solicited comments from attendees to help us in our planning for next year's conference. 36% of those who attended the conference submitted a completed evaluation indicating that the overall conference was "above average" with a 4.000023 rating out of a possible 5.

Over 200 hygiene kits were assembled and donated to Ambassadors for Children for a recent trip to Mexico. Conference attendees, the IU School of Dentistry, the Marriott, and other volunteers provided the supplies for the kits. Additionally, each conference attendee learned about the importance of being prepared for a disaster from the Indianapolis Chapter of the American Red Cross while they assembled a disaster preparedness kit. After doing the hard work of assembly, each conference attendee was allowed to take the kit to their own home or office.

All in all it was a good conference and we were pleased that so many people found the information useful. We look forward to hosting the 2008 Governor's Conference on Service and Volunteerism.

Some thank you notes received from the Eastern Greene SAVE Chapter in Bloomfield

"I want to just say that your help has been great for the SAVE Advisory Board. Without your support, then we wouldn't have the chance to come and share our message to others. This really means a lot to us and we really appreciate your generosity. Hopefully you will have a chance to stop by and watch our presentation that we have planned. Again, thank you very much." **Elaine Taylor**

"Thank you for the chance to come back to the Governor's Conference once again. When I heard that we couldn't go, I was upset because we had such a good time last year. Thank you for the chance to come back and show everyone how much we have improved." **Sierra New**

"Thank you very much for giving our SAVE Chapter the opportunity to share our message with other people. We hope they like what we say. Again, thank you." **Cody Randall**





The **Community Volunteerism Award** recognizes an individual or group that has made a significant impact through volunteer efforts. Selection is based on the extraordinary manner in which the effort was made and its effectiveness and sustainability. The recipient for this award is **John Cowan of Lebanon**. Mr. Cowan is a pharmacist and co-owner of Cowan Drug and Parkside Pharmacy. He was nominated for his pioneering efforts to aid individuals and families with high medication costs. His patience-assistance program, Prescription Connection, has saved \$1.1 million for Boone County senior citizens, and saved the Boone County Community Clinic nearly \$375,000 in drug costs.

The **Faith-Based Contribution Award** recognizes an individual representing a faith-based organization that has made an outstanding volunteer contribution to the community or state outside their own place of worship. **Scott Getzin of Greenfield** is the recipient of this award. Mr. Getzin is a Senior Systems Analyst with Eli Lilly and Company, and was nominated by the Board of Directors of Love INC for his drive to found an affiliate office of the organization in Hancock County. Love INC is a clearinghouse for assistance requests that coordinates response among local congregations and pooled community resources. In 2006, 239 families received assistance through Love INC in Hancock County.

The **National Service Award** recognizes an individual or group who has demonstrated outstanding volunteer service above and beyond the requirements of their designated program. The individual or groups must have been affiliated with AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps VISTA, AmeriCorps NCCC, Senior Corps, RSVP, or foster Grandparents in 2006. Two outstanding individuals were selected for this award. **Dollie Stuber of Scottsburg** was nominated not only for her work as a Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator for the Family Resource Center in Austin, but for her continuous outreach to her community. Dollie spends 40 hours a week organizing volunteers for more than ten regular programs at the Family Resource Center, is a youth leader at her church, and has organized mission trips to San Bernadino, CA and Bacalar, Mexico. She spent 60 hours ringing a bell for the Salvation Army and worked the third shift at the Kids First Auction to buy clothes and toys for needy children. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Dollie organized a trip to Mississippi with three friends, and loaded a horse trailer with food, clothes and other supplies for the victims. **Jodi Rodriguez of Greenwood** was nominated for her instrumental role in the development of future programs and services at Esperanza En Jesucristo, a resource center for the Hispanic community in the Greenwood area. She has surpassed her 450-hour AmeriCorps service requirement with the center where she organizes educational opportunities, writes grants, and makes presentations to the community about Hispanic culture. She is now pursuing certification to become a home parenting trainer who will work with young mothers in the Hispanic community.

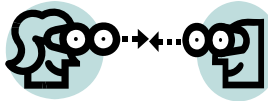
The **Service Learning Award** recognizes an individual or organization whose volunteer efforts epitomize the goals of service learning: to help students from kindergarten through college meet community needs while improving their academic skills. This year's recipient is **Susan Haynes of Camby**. Susan oversees projects at seven schools as the coordinator of the service learning program she helped to create. Twenty to thirty projects are completed by students in K-12 each school year in partnerships with local senior centers, the Red Cross, homeless shelters and many other groups. Susan has secured nearly \$300,000 in grants for Mooresville schools and held numerous successful drives for books, school supplies and cash donations.

The **Youth Service Award** recognizes young Hoosiers ages 5-17 who have made significant contributions through volunteer efforts, and serve as models and inspiration to other young volunteers. **Thomas Gaither of Indianapolis** was nominated for his extensive service throughout high school. He has been active in his community through several service-learning projects, is a Spanish tutor, and has contributed thoughtfully as a member of the township's Service Learning Advisory Board.

The **Lifetime Achievement Award** recognizes a long-term commitment to volunteerism and community service at a variety of levels. The selected nominee should have made a substantial and sustained impact in the community as a result of service efforts. This year's recipient is **Robert Thompson of Fishers**. Bob has been instrumental in the expansion and improvement of the services offered by St. Mary's, facilitating the building of one school and purchasing the building for a satellite location. His support has resulted in door-to-door transportation, food programs, play therapy, and parenting programs at the center. Along with Bill Carson, Bob also founded the St. Mary's Godparent program, which has raised \$320,000 annually for the Center, and is now its main source of funding. Since 1985, Bob has provided over 9,000 hours of service and more than \$4.5 million to St. Mary's. His support has been essential to the 200 children who live with poverty, abuse, neglect and violence who are served at St. Mary's each day.



John, Scott, Dollie, Susan, Thomas and Jodi. Not pictured, Robert.



Did you see what they made?

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All attendees of the 2007 Governor's Conference were given the opportunity to put together a personal disaster preparedness kit to take back to their homes or businesses. This was a joint effort of the OFBCI and the American Red Cross of Greater Indianapolis. Overall, over 600 kits were put together, meaning that more than 600 Hoosiers are now better-prepared to respond in an emergency situation. Each disaster kit contained: A plastic storage box; disaster prep pamphlets; first-aid kit; dust mask; whistle; glow stick; water; flashlight with batteries; sewing kit; compass; can/bottle opener; work gloves; poncho; trash bag; playing cards; and a first-aid quick reference guide.

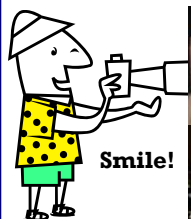
Many thanks to the American Red Cross of Greater Indianapolis and to all conference attendees for making this project a success!

Many of this year's conference attendees participated in another service project, this time to benefit children overseas. Attendees brought in hundreds of donations for a project to assemble hygiene kits, which were put together by conference attendees. Over 200 hygiene kits were assembled, and everything that was left over will be used in assembling more hygiene kits when the materials become available. These kits are currently being distributed in impoverished communities in Latin America by Ambassadors for Children, a local nonprofit.



"A HUGE thanks for all the hygiene kits that were gathered, assembled, and given to Ambassadors for Children's Spring missions. I am currently writing from 39,000 feet heading to Mexico with a group of 20 people. Each person brought an extra suitcase of the items you collected as well as school supplies, stuff for an Easter egg hunt, over the counter medicine, etc. We will be working in a preschool, a handicap center, two orphanages and a library this next week...Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts. We're looking forward to having all of you travel with us sometime in the future."

Sally Brown, President of AFC





Did you hear about the Breakout Sessions?

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Good Isn't Good Enough ... Build a Great Board

This engaging presentation by June Miller, Regional Director of the Indiana Nonprofit Resource Network, outlined the importance of the board of directors and gave participants tools they could use immediately, regardless of the size or location of their organization, to begin the process of building a great board of directors. Participants also received information on resources where they could continue to learn and find answers to their board development questions.

"Good example of 'how to have fun' in a board meeting. She made the seminar fun!"

***Maximizing the IMPACT of Faith-Based and Community Organizations***

Kevin Monroe of X-Factor Consulting flew in all the way from Atlanta to wrap up the Faith-Based Track with his session. Mr. Monroe explored the elements leaders of grassroots faith-based and community organizations need to address to achieve Maximum IMPACT in the lives of the clients, communities and causes they serve

"Absolutely the best presentation I've heard at a conference in some time."

***Legal Do's and Don'ts: Working with Faith-Based and Community Organizations***

In this informative session lead by Drew Carberry, Director of Faith & Community Engaged in Service of the National Crime Prevention Council, participants explored how faith-based and community organizations can partner with government in the context of various national initiatives, including prisoner re-entry and emergency preparedness through interactive exercises. Participants also tested their knowledge and learned more about the legal guidelines for funding of faith-based organizations

"Very humorous. Great!"

***Project SAVE – How Students are Advocating Change!***

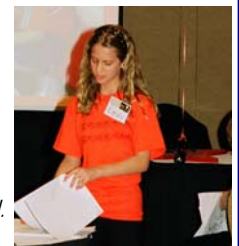
Over 30 students from the SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere) chapter of Eastern Greene Schools gave a fun-filled presentation which included SAVE information, student-performed skits, poems, songs, and cheers. The session inspired participants with 50 minutes of interaction with amazing students who are making a difference.

"This was wonderful. I believe all schools should have a SAVE chapter!"

Monarch Mission: Creating a Safe Haven for the Monarch Lifecycle

Students from Kristen Gryskevich's third grade class at White Lick Elementary School kicked off the Service-Learning Track with an inspiring presentation on their service learning project to create a way station in a local park for monarch butterflies. Students explained why they felt there was a need to save this endangered species along with how they were able to write the grant and all the steps they took in their endeavors. The students, wearing orange t-shirts and butterfly wings, energized participants with the presentation, complete with a song accompanied by guitars.

"It is just wonderful to see students applying what they have learned in the classroom... and they are making a difference as well. Seeing children learn about our impact on the environment at such an early age is refreshing."

**Conference Feedback**

"I had a great experience and learned a ton. I hope to be back next year."

"Disaster kits are awesome – Thank you!"

"Very well organized and staff was very helpful and friendly. I enjoyed the materials given to us during registration. I was also impressed with many of the sessions—they were actually helpful!"

"Thanks for putting this together. It's nice to know that there are people who are really pumped about service."

"I felt very motivated by the conference...I thought people gave excellent advice that will be easy to apply to my organization. Everyone spoke with such inspiring enthusiasm!"

"This conference was very well put together. The information presented was practical and engaging."

"This was top notch! I'll certainly be back!"